

## Actus Tertius. Scena Prima.

Enter Queens and her Women as at worke.

Queen. Take thy Lute wench,  
My Soule growes sad with troubles,  
Sing, and disperse 'em if thou canst leaue working:

SONG.

*Ophelia with his Lute made Trees,  
And the Mountaine tops that freeze,  
Bow themselves when he did sing.  
To his Musicke, Plants and Flowers  
Euer sprung; as Sunne and Showers,  
There had made a lasting Spring.  
Euerie thing that heard him play,  
Euen the Billowes of the Sea,  
Hung their heads, & then lay by.  
In sweet Musicke is such Art,  
Killing care, & griefe of heart,  
Fall asleepe, or hearing dyes.*

Enter a Gentleman.

Queen. How now?

Gent. And't please your Grace, the two great Cardinals  
Wait in the presence.

Queen. Would they speake with me?

Gent. They will me say so Madam.

Queen. Pray their Graces

To come neere: what can be their busines  
With me, a poore weake woman, false from fauour?  
I doe not like their comming; now I thinke on't,  
They should bee good men, their affaires as righteous:  
But all Hoods, make not Monkes.

Enter the two Cardinals, Wolsey & Campian.

Wol. Peace to your Highnesse.

Queen. Your Graces find me heere part of a Houwife,  
(I would be all) against the worst may happen:  
What are your pleasures with me, reuerent Lords?

Wol. May it please you Noble Madam, to withdraw  
Into your priuate Chamber; we shall giue you  
The full cause of our comming.

Queen. Speake it heere.

There's nothing I haue done yet o' my Conscience  
Deserues a Corner: would all other Women  
Could speake this with as free a Soule as I doe.

My Lords, I care not (so much I am happy  
Abooue a number) if my actions

Were tri'd by eu'ry tongue, eu'ry eye saw 'em,  
Envy and base opinion set against 'em,

I know my life to euen. If your busines  
Seeke me out, and that way I am Wife in;

Out with it boldly: Truth loues open dealing.

Card. Tanta est erga te mentis integritas Regina serenissima.

Queen. O good my Lord, no Latin;

I am not such a Truant since my comming,  
As not to know the Language I haue li'd in: (ous:

A strange Tongue makes my cause more strange, suspiti-  
Pray speake in English; heere are some will thanke you,

if you speake truth, for their poore Mistis sake;  
Beleeue me she ha's had much wrong. Lord Cardinall,

The willing'st I haue euer yet committed,  
May be absol'd in English.

Card. Noble Lady,

I am sorry my incegrity shoul breed,  
(And seruice to his Maiesty and you)  
So deepe suspition, where all faith was meant;  
We come not by the way of Accusation,  
To taint that honour euery good Tongue blesses;  
Nor to betray you any way to sorrow;  
You haue too much good Lady: But to know  
How you stand minded in the waightry difference  
Betweene the King and you, and to deliuer  
(Like free and honest men) our iust opinions,  
And comforts to our cause.

Camp. Most honour'd Madam,  
My Lord of Yorke, out of his Noble nature,  
Zeale and obedience he still bore your Grace,  
Forgetting (like a good man) your late Censure  
Both of his truth and him (which was too farre)  
Offers, as I doe, in a signe of peace,  
His Seruice, and his Counsell.

Queen. To betray me.

My Lords, I thanke you both for your good wills,  
Ye speake like honest men, (pray God ye proue so)  
But how to make ye sodainly an Answer  
In such a poynt of weight, so neere mine Honour,  
(More neere my Life I feare) with my weake wit,  
And to such men of grauity and learning;  
In truth I know not. I was set at worke,  
Among my Maids, full little (God knows) looking  
Either for such men, or such businesse;  
For her sake that I haue beene, for I feele  
The last fit of my Greatnesse; good your Graces  
Let me haue time and Council for my Cause:  
Alas, I am a Woman frendlesse, hopelesse.

Wol. Madam,

You wrong the Kings loue with these feares,  
Your hopes and friends are infinite.

Queen. In England,

But little for my profit can you thinke Lords,  
That any English man dare giue me Council?  
Or be a knowne friend 'gainst his Highnes pleasure,  
(Though he be growne so desperate to be honest)  
And lue a Subject? Nay forsooth, my Friends,  
They that must weigh out my afflictions,  
They that my trust must grow to, lue not heere,  
They are (as all my other comforts) far hence  
In mine owne Countrey Lords.

Camp. I would your Grace

Would leaue your griefes, and take my Counsell.

Queen. How Sir?

Camp. Put your maine cause into the Kings protection,  
Hee's louing and most gracious. I will be much,  
Both for your Honour better, and your Cause:  
For if the tryall of the Law o'take ye,  
You'll part away disgrac'd.

Wol. He tels you rightly.

Queen. Ye tell me what ye wish for both, my ruine:  
Is this your Christian Council? Out vpon ye.  
Heauen is aboue all yer; there sits a Iudge.  
That no King can corrupt.

Camp. Your rage mistakes vs.

Queen. The more shame for ye; holy men I thought ye,  
Vpon my Soule two reuerend Cardinall Vertues:  
But Cardinall Sins, and hollow hearts I feare ye:  
Mend 'em for shame my Lords: Is this your comfort?  
The Cordiall that ye bring a wretched Lady?  
A woman lost among ye, laugh't at, scorn'd?  
I will not wish ye halfe my miseries,

I haue more Charity. But say I warn'd ye;  
Take heed, for heauens sake take heed, least at once  
The burthen of my sorrowes, fall vpon ye.

Car. Madam, this is a meere distraction,

You turne the good we offer, into enuy.

Queen. Ye turne me into nothing. Woe vpon ye,  
And all such false Professors. Would you haue me

(If you haue any Iustice, any Pity,

If ye be any thing but Churchmens habits)

Put my sicke cause into his hands, that hates me?

Alas, ha's banish'd me his Bed already,

His Loue, too long ago. I am old my Lords,

And all the Fellowship I hold now with him

Is only my Obedience. What can happen

To me, aboue this wretchednesse? All your Studies

Make me a Curse, like this.

Camp. Your feares are worse.

Qu. Haue I li'd thus long (let me speake my selfe,

Since Vertue findes no friends) a Wife a true one?

A Woman (I dare say without vainglory)

Neuer yet branded with Suspition?

Haue I, with all my full Affections

Still met the King? Lou'd him next Heau'n? Obey'd him?

Bin (out of fondnesse) superstitious to him?

Almost forgot my Prayres to content him?

And am I thus rewarded? 'Tis not well Lords.

Bring me a constant woman to her Husband,

One that ne're dream'd a Loy, beyond his pleasure;

And to that Woman (when she has done most)

Yet will I adde an Honor; a great Patience.

Car. Madam, you wander from the good

We ayme at.

Qu. My Lord,

I dare not make my selfe so guiltie,

To giue vp willingly that Noble Title

Your Master wed me to: nothing but death

Shall e're diuorce my Dignities.

Car. Pray heare me.

Qu. Would I had neuer trod this English Earth,

Or felt the Flatteries that grow vpon it:

Ye haue Angels Faces; but Heauen knows your hearts.

What will become of me now, wretched Lady?

I am the most unhappy Woman liuing.

Alas (poore Wenches) where are now your Fortunes?

Shipwrack'd vpon a Kingdome, where no Pity,

No Friends, no Hope, no Kindred weepe for me?

Almost no Graue allow'd me? Like the Lilly

That once was Mistis of the Field, and flourish'd,

He hang my head, and perish.

Car. If your Grace

Could but be brought to know, our Ends are honest,

You'd feele more comfort. Why shold we (good Lady)

Vpon what cause wrong you? Alas, our Places,

The way of our Profession is against it;

We are to Cure such sorrowes, not to sowe 'em.

For Goodnesse sake, consider what you do,

How you may hurt your selfe: I, vterly

Grow from the Kings Acquaintance, by this Carriage.

The hearts of Princes kisse Obedience,

So much they loue it. But to Rubborne Spirits,

They swell and grow, as terrible as stormes.

I know you haue a Gentle, Noble temper,

A Soule as euen as a Calme; Pray thinke vs,

Those we professe, Peace-makers, Friends, and Seruants.

Camp. Madam, you'l finde it so:

You wrong your Vertues

With these weake Womens feares. A Noble Spirit  
As yours was, put into you, euer casts  
Such doubts as false Come from it. The King loues you,  
Beware you loose it not: For vs (if you please  
To trust vs in your businesse) we are ready  
To vse our vrmost Studies, in your seruice.

Qu. Do what ye will, my Lords:

And pray forgie me;

If I haue vs'd my selfe vnmanerly.

You know I am a Woman, lacking wit

To make a seemely answer to such persons.

Pray do my seruice to his Maieesty,

He ha's my heart yet, and shall haue my Prayers

While I shall haue my life. Come reuerend Fathers,

Bestow your Counsels on me. She now begges

That little thought when she set footing heere,

She should haue bought her Dignities so deere. *Exeunt*

## Scena Secunda.

Enter the Duke of Norfolk, Duke of Suffolke, Lord Surrey,  
and Lord Chamberlaine.

Nor. If you will now vuite in your Complaints,  
And force them with a Constancy, the Cardinall  
Cannot stand vnder them. If you omit  
The offer of this time, I cannot promise,  
But that you shall sustaine moe new disgraces,  
With these you beare already.

Sur. I am ioyfull

To meete the least occasion, that may giue me  
Remembrance of my Father-in-Law, the Duke,  
To be reueng'd on him.

Suf. Which of the Peeres

Haue vncontent'd gone by him, or at least  
Strangely neglected? When did he regard  
The stampe of Noblenesse in any person  
Out of himselfe?

Cham. My Lords, you speake your pleasures:  
What he deserues of you and me, I know:  
What we can do to him (though now the time  
Giues way to vs) I much feare. If you cannot  
Barre his access to 'th' King, neuer attempt  
Any thing on him: for he hath a Witchcraft  
Ouer the King in's Tongue.

Nor. O feare him not,  
His spell in that is out: the King hath found  
Matter against him, that for euer marres  
The Hony of his Language. No, he's settled  
(Not to come off) in his displeasure.

Sur. Sir,  
I should be glad to beare such Newes as this  
Once euery houre.

Nor. Beleeue it, this is true.  
In the Diuorce, his contrarie proceedings  
Are all vnfolded: wherein he appeares,  
As I would wish mine Enemy.

Sur. How came

His practises to light?

Suf. Most strangely.

Sur. O how? how?

Suf. The Cardinals Letters to the Pope miscarried,

And